

## **NRT Frequently Asked Questions from the September 17-22 Workshops**

**Following are questions that were submitted on the bottom part of the NRT response sheet.**

**What were the cut-off scores for proficiency levels this year?**

**If this is in reference to the STEP, those scores can be obtained from the SDDOE. The performance level scores that apply to the SAT 10 remain constant from year to year, but are based on teacher judgments of student performance across the nation, not specifically to South Dakota. A table of the SAT 10 Abbrev Battery Performance Standard Cut Scores is posted on the SDDOE Assessment/Testing website.**

**Will we have the assessment results back quicker? Why can't we get our results by May 15 (June 1 at the latest) since all programming and procedures are in place? Cut scores don't change standards don't change as in the Dakota STEP.**

**The projected date for delivering the 2006 NRT reports was May 26 and the projected date for delivery of 2007 NRT reports is May 25. The 2006 reports were delayed due to a problem with matching documents to the Pre-ID file. Since there will be some programming changes in 2007 due to some subtests of the SAT 10 being removed, extra Quality Assurance procedures will need to be implemented, but it is expected that reports can be delivered by May 25 provided all schools have their scorable materials to Harcourt by April 27.**

**Is it true that parents have the right to request that their child/student not be tested? And are we obligated to honor that request legally?**

**This is a question pertaining to SD state policy. Please contact the SDDOE.**

**Why don't the OLSAT scores print out on the Home Report to parents?**

**Feedback from customers has been to keep this score off of the Home Report because it created too much confusion on how to interpret the score. Since it is similar to, but not the same as an IQ score, it is recommended that schools share that score with parents in a one-to-one setting so it can be explained correctly.**

**Why aren't we continuing to test this? Concern for too narrow of focus on our own standards.**

**Assuming that this refers to dropping the SAT 10 subtests and only testing with a CRT state test, this is a question that relates to a decision made by the SDDOE after they weighed the benefits and drawbacks of keeping those subtests in the DSTEP. Please contact the SDDOE for a full explanation.**

**What subtests are included in the SAT10 basic battery?**

**The Basic Battery score is made up of the following subtests: Total Reading, Total Math, Language, Spelling, and Listening**

**It does not include the Science and Social Science subtests**

**Why can't all on grade and off grade reports match a little better?**

**Please contact Dennis Ortman with more specifics on this question at [dennis\\_ortman@harcourt.com](mailto:dennis_ortman@harcourt.com) This could depend on the level, form, or battery taken at the off-grades.**

**Could STEP be in MARCH since most SD schools are out by mid-May?**

**This is a decision made by the SDDOE.**

**Does it make sense to use the OLSAT every year or are there target years where it makes more sense?**

**This is a local decision, and depends on the uses of the OLSAT data. There are districts that do test at every grade and others that target specific grades, such as an elementary grade like 2<sup>nd</sup>, or 3<sup>rd</sup>, beginning of middle school like grade 6, and beginning of high school like grade 9. If placement into a Gifted/Talented program is part of the reason for using OLSAT, testing every year may be necessary. This doesn't necessarily provide a direct answer, but what "makes sense" to one district may not fit into the plan for another.**